

REMARKS

The Office Action of January 24, 2005 states that this application contains claims directed to the following patentably distinct species of the claimed invention:

Species A (Fig. 1, fixed attachment an both ends);

Species B (Fig. 2, fixed attachment an both ends with drive tang 202b and drive socket 202a);

Species C (Fig. 3, detachably attached at both ends with both male and female attachment means);

Species D (Fig. 4a, detachably attached at both ends with female attachment means at both ends);

Species E (Fig. 4b, fixedly attached to the head and detachably attached to the handle with female attachment means);

The Office Action asserts that the applicant is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. Currently, no claim is generic. Applicant is advised that a reply to this requirement must include an identification of the species that is elected consonant with this requirement, and a listing of all claims readable thereon, including any claims subsequently added. An argument that a claim is allowable or that all claims are generic is considered nonresponsive unless accompanied by an election. Upon the allowance of a generic claim, applicant will be entitled to consideration of claims to additional species which are written in dependent form or otherwise include all the limitations of an allowed generic claim as provided by 37 CFR 1.141. If claims are added after the election, applicant must indicate which are readable upon the elected species. Should applicant

traverse an the ground that the species are not patentably distinct, applicant should submit evidence or identify such evidence now of record showing the species to be obvious variants or clearly admit an the record that this is the case. In either instance, if the examiner finds one of the inventions unpatentable over the prior art, the evidence or admission may be used in a rejection under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) of the other invention

Applicants elect Species C for prosecution on the merits. Claims 1-13, 17, 19-23 and 27-31 are believed to be associated with Species C.

2. The Office Action holds that the applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Applicants believe that there is no need for amendment of the inventorship in the instant patent application.


3. The Office Action concludes that applicant's election without traverse of species G, previously indicated in the reply filed on 04/29/05 is acknowledged, however, species F-G were indicated by error, since all the claims presented are directed to the different embodiments with respect to Species A-E.

Applicants regret that the species have been incorrectly indicated in the Office Action of January 24, 2005. Applicants believe that the error will not cause any delay in prosecution of the present application.

Reconsideration of all outstanding rejections is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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Reg. No. 28,559; Docket No.: FRB211

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